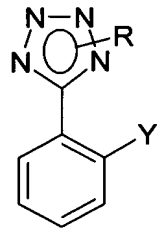
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

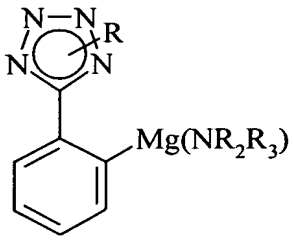
1. (original) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (II)



(II)

in which R is hydrogen, a protecting group or a salifying group and Y is a $-B(OR_4)_2$ group, wherein each R_4 is independently hydrogen or C_1-C_6 alkyl; or a -ZnX group, wherein X is a halogen atom selected from chlorine, bromine and iodine;

which comprises the reaction of a compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein R is as defined above and R_2 and R_3, which can be the same or different, are straight or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_3-C_6 cycloalkyl, trialkylsilyl, or R_2 and R_3, taken together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to, form a saturated, optionally substituted, heterocyclic ring, containing one to two further heteroatoms independently selected from nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

either with a compound of formula (VI)

$$ZnX_2 \quad (VI)$$

wherein X is as defined above;

or with a compound of formula (VIa)

$B(OR'_4)_3$ (VIa)

wherein each R'_4 is independently C_1-C_6 alkyl,

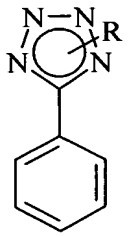
and, if desired, the subsequent hydrolysis of the resulting boranic ester of formula (II).

2. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.0 to 5.0.

3. (original) A process as claimed in claim 2, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (V) ranges from 1.1 to 3.0.

4. (currently amended) A process as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the reaction is carried out in an ether solvent or mixtures thereof with an apolar solvent, at a temperature ranging from 20°C to the reflux temperature.

5. (original) A process as claimed in claim 1, in which a compound of formula (V) is prepared by reaction between a compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein R is as defined in claim 1,

with a compound of formula (VII)

$Mg(NR_2R_3)_2$ (VII)

wherein R_2 and R_3 are as defined in claim 1.

6. (original) A process as claimed in claim 5, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VII) to a compound of formula (III) ranges from 0.5 to 3.0.

7. (original) A process as claimed in claim 6, in which the stoichiometric ratio of a compound of formula (VII) to a compound of formula (III) ranges from 1.0 to 2.0.

8. (original) A compound of formula (II), as defined in claim 1, wherein R is a 1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl group and Y is a $-B(OR_4)_2$ group, in which R_4 is as defined in claim 1.

9. (original) A compound as defined in claim 8, wherein each R_4 is independently hydrogen, methyl, ethyl or isopropyl.

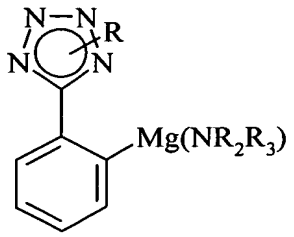
10. (original) A compound as defined in claim 8, which is:

• 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid;

• 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid methyl ester; or

• 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenylboronic acid isopropyl ester.

11. (original) A compound of formula (V)



(V)

wherein R, R_2 and R_3 are as defined in claim 1.

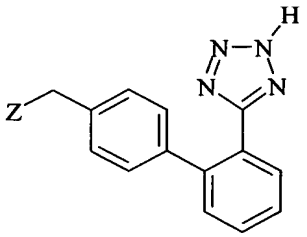
12. (original) A compound as defined in claim 11, which is:

• 2-[2-t-butyl-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide;

• 2-[2-sodium-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide; or

• 2-[2-(1-methyl-1-phenyl-ethyl)-2H-tetrazol-5-yl]-phenyl magnesium diisopropylamide.

13. (currently amended) The use of a compound of formula (V), as defined in claim 11 ~~or 12~~, for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

in which Z is an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom; or an amido residue;

or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

14. (original) The use as claimed in claim 13, wherein in the compound of formula (I) the residue Z is selected from:

2-butyl-4-chloro-5-hydroxymethyl-imidazol-1-yl;

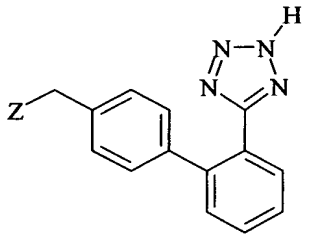
2-ethoxy-7-carboxy-1H-benzimidazol-1-yl;

2-butyl-1,3-diaza-spiro[4,4]non-1-en-4-on-3-yl and

(S)-N-(1-carboxy-2-methylprop-1-yl)-N-pentanoylamino.

15. (new) A process as claimed in claim 2, in which the reaction is carried out in an ether solvent or mixtures thereof with an apolar solvent, at a temperature ranging from 20°C to the reflux temperature.

16. (new) The use of a compound of formula (V), as defined in claim 12, for the preparation of a compound of formula (I)



(I)

in which Z is an optionally substituted heterocycle containing at least one nitrogen atom; or an amido residue;

or of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.